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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains a review of the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2016. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality and migration; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support given to intergovernmental processes through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

The objective of the programme of work in the field of population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development acts as the governing body for the Population Division and thus provides guidance on the work programme as part of its annual session.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the programme of work on population. The programme of work is guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] by the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action and by the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives (see resolution 65/234). The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), are also taken into account. The work of the Population Division is guided also by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), and by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017, the objective of the work programme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda (see A/69/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 5). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance and oversight.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme on population, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (see A/70/6 (Sect. 9), subprogramme 5), are as follows:

(a) Enhanced awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding of the interactions between population and development, including the gender dimensions of demographic phenomena, especially in regard to fertility, mortality, migration, family planning, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(b) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data, sex- and age-disaggregated data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds and programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult with the Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2016, grouped by thematic area. In addition, it provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the provision of support to intergovernmental processes, the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals, the dissemination of population information and data, and technical cooperation. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division published a comprehensive dataset on family planning indicators, World Contraceptive Use 2016,[2] which includes up-to-date, survey-based estimates of contraceptive prevalence and the unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) who are married or in a union. The data for the 2016 update were drawn from 1,119 surveys — 60 more surveys than for the 2015 edition of this dataset. Furthermore, greater detail is provided in the 2016 edition on method-specific contraceptive prevalence and the classification of lactational amenorrhea as a modern method, based on the consensus of experts at a technical meeting of the World Health Organization held in 2015.

7. The Division also released Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2016,[3] a comprehensive set of annual, model-based estimates and projections for a range of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030, including median values and 80 and 95 per cent uncertainty intervals. The estimates were based on updated input data on contraceptive use and on the number of women who were married or in a union. The model-based estimates provide information for the global monitoring of indicator 3.7.1 (demand satisfied with modern methods) (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV) of the Sustainable Development Goals using a Bayesian hierarchical model combined with country-specific data. The model-based estimates and projections informed the Secretary-General's report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2016/75), in particular progress on target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services. New features of the latest edition include a clearer visualization of data points and the treatment of the Performance monitoring and Accountability 2020 surveys as a separate data group in the model.

[2] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2016.shtml.

[3] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml.

8. The Estimates and Projections of the Number of Women Aged 15-49 Who Are Married or in a Union: 2016 Revision[4] includes updated data for the period from 1970 to 2030 for all countries and areas, and for geographic regions and development groups. The estimates use input data on the number of women by five-year age group from *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*,[5] as well as data on the proportion of women who are married or in a consensual union from World Marriage Data 2015.[6]

9. An overview of key patterns and trends in marriage and non-marital unions is presented in a brief entitled "Changing patterns of marriage and unions across the world",[7] which is based on data from World Marriage Data 2015 and was issued as part of the *Population Facts* series of briefs published by the Population Division. For most regions, the main results included a continuing trend toward later ages at marriage, a narrowing of the sex gap in the age at first marriage, a growing prevalence of cohabitation or consensual unions and a decline in the prevalence of marriage among men and women of all ages.

III. Health and mortality

10. The Population Division worked on the *World Mortality Report 2015*,[8] which provides an overview of global levels and trends of mortality since 1950 for development groups and geographic regions, along with a highlights edition, which presents a concise overview of levels and trends in mortality for key age groups. The report focuses on the period of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, from 1990 to 2015, and concludes that further improvements in child survival in low- and middle-income countries can be achieved by addressing key determinants of the existing differences in levels of infant and early childhood mortality by social group. The report discusses the implications of this conclusion for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health, including priority actions to achieve further reductions in mortality risks.

11. In addition, the Population Division continued its work on two technical papers: one on a new method for assessing the completeness of death registration and the other on a step-by-step guide for processing microdata from public-use household surveys (such as the demographic and health surveys) for use in computing adult mortality rates and the level of maternal mortality from sibling histories.

12. The Population Division has continued to compile and document data suitable for the evaluation of mortality levels and trends using information from civil registration, as well as data on adult and old-age mortality derived from censuses

[4] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/marriage-unions/marriage_estimates.shtml.

[5] See https://esa.un.org/unpd/.

[6] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/marriage-unions/WMD2015.shtml.

[7] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2016-2.pdf.

[8] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/world-mortality-cdrom-2015.shtml.

and surveys in countries with incomplete or deficient civil registration systems. The Division continues to develop its databases containing various types of information available for the estimation of mortality, including the relevant metadata.

IV. International migration

13. The Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held in New York on 25 and 26 February 2016. The main objectives of the meeting were to take stock of the progress made in implementing the migration-related commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and to coordinate activities and initiatives undertaken in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016. The Coordination Meeting was attended by over 170 participants representing Member States and observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other international organizations, departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions of the United Nations and relevant non-governmental organizations, as well as some academic experts. The meeting was opened by high-level representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, including the Deputy Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and the Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The report of the meeting,[9] which was prepared by the Population Division, summarizes the discussions and main findings.

14. The Population Division also supported the work of the Special Adviser by assisting with the preparation of the high-level plenary meeting and its follow-up. The Division contributed to the report of the Secretary-General for the high-level plenary meeting, entitled "In safety and dignity: addressing large movements of refugees and migrants" (A/70/59), which provided background information and specific recommendations for consideration by Member States. The report called for new global commitments to address large movements of refugees and migrants and included recommendations to ensure the human rights, safety and dignity of refugees and migrants, to address the causes of such movements, to protect those who are compelled to undertake such journeys and to counter the xenophobia they frequently encounter. The report also called for the adoption of a global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees and the development of a global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration.

15. In preparation for the high-level plenary meeting, the Population Division, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a

[9] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/14/index.shtml

multi-stakeholder meeting on understanding large movements of refugees and migrants, which was held in New York on 25 April 2016. The meeting reviewed the magnitude, drivers and impact of large movements of refugees and migrants. The Division presented an overview of global levels and trends in international migration, including refugee movements, illustrating the role of population change as a driver of migration, and vice versa. The meeting also featured presentations by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IOM, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR, the World Bank and representatives of civil society. The meeting was attended by over 120 representatives of Member States, the United Nations system and civil society.

16. As another contribution to the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting, the Population Division organized, together with IFAD, a technical meeting on the theme of "Diaspora contributions to development: family remittances", which was held in New York on 13 July 2016. The event featured speakers from the United Nations, IFAD, civil society and academia.

17. The Division assisted the President of the General Assembly in organizing an informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing with civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to provide inputs to the high-level plenary meeting. The hearing, which was held in New York on 18 July 2016, was attended by about 300 representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector. Representatives of about 80 Member States and several international organizations also attended.[10]

18. The Population Division contributed to the preparation of the concept notes for the six roundtables held during the high-level plenary meeting.[11] The Division also supported the co-facilitators in the intergovernmental negotiations on the organizational details of the high-level plenary meeting (see General Assembly resolution 70/290) and on its outcome, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1).

19. The Population Division developed and hosted a dedicated website for the summit, providing easy access to relevant General Assembly documents and background materials.[12] The Division also provided support to UN-Women, the Chair of the Global Migration Group for 2016, by assisting with the preparation and organization of the annual retreat and other meetings and by drafting statements and preparing documents.

20. The Division supported the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration by administering the extrabudgetary funds that supported his work, by providing substantive support for his travel and other activities and by hosting and maintaining his web page.[13]

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[10] A summary of the hearing is available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/ga/documents/2016/pgaletters2016/Refugees-and-Migrants-Summary-of-hearings-22-July-2016.pdf.

[11] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/ga/documents/2016/pgaletters2016/Refugees-and-Migrants-8-September-2016.pdf.

[12] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/ga/2016/addressrefugeesmigrantssummit.html.

[13] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/partners/srsg.shtml.

21. On 12 January 2016, the Population Division participated in a press conference, together with the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Adviser on the summit, for the purpose of launching Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision.[14] The dataset formed a critical part of the evidence base that informed the deliberations of the high-level plenary meeting.

22. The Division contributed a presentation on the effects of migration on population ageing and population decline in the European Union to a forum on migration, citizenship and demography, organized by the Migration Policy Centre and the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, which was held on 4 and 5 February 2016. The forum provided an opportunity to reflect on migration and related issues in the context of recent large movements of refugees and migrants.

23. The Division responded to an unprecedented number of requests for briefing notes, talking points and statements on migration and related issues from senior officials of the United Nations. The Division provided these materials in a timely manner while maintaining a high standard of quality and also served as note-taker during numerous meetings of senior officials.

V. Global population estimates and projections

24. The official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world are used extensively across the United Nations system and by the general public. They are easily accessible through the Internet, both directly from the website of the Population Division and as part of widely used databases sponsored by other United Nations entities, including the World Development Indicators database of the World Bank, the central data portal of the United Nations, UNdata, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and FAOSTAT, the main statistical database of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Several commercial database services also redistribute the Division's data under agreements with the Department of Public Information.

25. Several outputs presenting the findings of World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision are available on the website of the Population Division, including data files in both Excel and ASCII formats, an interactive database and other supporting materials, such as information about data sources.[5] The site also includes useful figures and maps illustrating the data. *World Population Prospects* ranks among the most popular products of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, according to download statistics collected by the Department.

26. In 2016, the Population Division continued its work on the major undertaking of revising and updating the software used to generate the global population estimates and projections presented in *World Population Prospects*. The updated software has now been fully tested and is already being used for updating country-specific estimates as part of the 2017 revision.

[14] Available from https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml.

27. The Population Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100. Given the long projection horizon, the results are subject to a high degree of uncertainty, especially at the country level. Users are therefore encouraged to focus not only on the medium-variant projection, which corresponds to the median of several thousand simulated country trajectories for each component of demographic change, but also on the prediction intervals, which describe a range of plausible outcomes corresponding to the observed percentiles of the collection of simulated trajectories. The results of the probabilistic projections are also available on the Division's website.

VI. Population policies

28. In 2016, the Division finalized and released the 2015 revision of the World Population Policies Database.[15] Updated biennially, the database provides information on government views, policies and programmes on population and related topics for 193 Member States, 2 observer States and 2 non-member States of the United Nations. The database documents the evolution of government views, policies and programmes concerning population growth, population ageing, fertility, reproductive health and family planning, spatial distribution and urbanization, and international migration since the mid-1970s.

29. The Division prepared country profiles of policy variables included in the database and related demographic and socioeconomic indicators and has made them available through an interactive web interface. The Division also released a CD-ROM containing the various datasets included in the database.

30. The Division published a data booklet entitled "Policies on Spatial Distribution and Urbanization",[16] which presents information for all countries of the world on selected government policies, strategies and measures to influence the spatial distribution of the population and to promote rural development and sustainable urbanization. The booklet also provides information on selected demographic, socioeconomic and environmental indicators related to spatial distribution and urbanization policies.

31. In 2016, the Division continued the implementation of the Global Abortion Policies project in collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organization (WHO). The goal of the project is to develop an interactive, open-access database and repository of current abortion laws and policies. Data on abortion laws and policies, gathered using a questionnaire for all countries of the world, were reviewed by Governments and finalized by experts at WHO and by staff of the Population Division. The data and supporting documents are now being incorporated into a database.

32. During 2016, the Division, with support from WHO, developed a software application for managing the Global Abortion Policies Database, including a searchable repository of downloadable documents. The database, with an archive of

[15] Available from https://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about_database.aspx.

[16] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/Data%20Booklet%20Urbanization%20Policies.pdf.

related legal and policy documents and country profiles presenting information on abortion policies for all States Members of the United Nations, as well as observer and non-member States, will be made available through an interactive website in mid-2017.

VII. Population and development

33. In the light of the demand for up-to-date information on population trends for the world's cities, and motivated also by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito in October 2016, the Population Division published a data booklet entitled "The World's Cities in 2016",[17] which highlights current and future trajectories of city populations around the globe, focusing on the period 2016-2030 and based on the estimates and projections published in *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*.[18] The data booklet provides charts and text describing the growth in the size and number of cities and notes that the share of the population residing in cities is projected to increase in all regions.

34. The booklet also describes the complexities involved in defining the boundaries of a city, noting that conclusions about population trends may differ depending on whether one considers the population residing within the administrative boundaries of a city, or in the urban agglomeration or metropolitan area. Several maps display the results of an analysis of the vulnerability of the world's cities to natural disasters, including their risks of disaster-related mortality and economic loss. Estimates of city populations in 2000 and 2016 are presented in a table, with projections to 2030, for 512 cities with 1 million or more inhabitants in 2016. The data booklet also presents the growth rates of the cities and their size as a proportion of the country's total population and of the total urban population.

35. In 2016, the Population Division began developing an interactive database to archive and display geographic coordinates of city boundaries using various definitions (for example, city proper, urban agglomeration, metropolitan area) and the size of the associated populations as enumerated in national censuses. The population counts distinguish the urban and rural populations residing within each boundary, according to the definitions of urban and rural used by the country. A first release of the database contains information for selected countries and censuses. The selection of countries and censuses for this first round took into consideration the availability of publicly accessible geographic information system boundary files linked to censuses, the number of cities with 100,000 inhabitants or more and regional representation. Continuing work will expand the number of countries, cities and census years included in the database, with the ultimate goal of global coverage for cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants from 1990 to the present.

36. To complement the Population Division's capacity development activities on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa, the Division published a *Population Facts* brief

[17] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/urbanization/the_worlds_cities_in_2016_data_booklet.pdf.

[18] United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights* (ST/ESA/SER.A/352). Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/publications/files/wup2014-highlights.Pdf.

entitled "Sub-Saharan Africa's growing population of older persons".[19] The brief highlights estimates showing that the number of older persons in the region doubled between 1990 and 2015 and is projected to more than triple between 2015 and 2050. It also reviews the situation of older persons in sub-Saharan Africa with respect to old-age pensions and labour force participation, as well as the implications of a growing population of older persons for health systems in the region. The brief underscores the importance, given the rapid growth in the number of older persons in sub-Saharan Africa, of collecting data to understand the status and needs of older persons in the region and of implementing policies to ensure their well-being.

37. Continuing its work on national transfer accounts, the Population Division completed a technical paper in 2016 entitled "Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world". The paper presents country-specific estimates of the ratio of effective producers to effective consumers (the support ratio) as well as the potential for accelerated economic growth associated with demographic shifts. In this context, reference is made to the "first demographic dividend", which may accrue owing to the more favourable population age structure that results from a sustained decline in the fertility level, and to the "second demographic dividend", which may follow from an expanded accumulation of assets as a result of the increase over time in the average length of life. The paper presents results based on estimates of age profiles of consumption and labour income for 59 countries and on modelled age profiles for an additional 105 countries.

38. Changes in household demography — namely, changes in the number and characteristics of household residents — are increasingly recognized as a key factor mediating the relationship between demographic shifts and development outcomes. Indeed, households are the centres of demographic, social and economic processes, since critical decisions about childbearing, living arrangements, consumption, labour force participation, migration and savings are often made at the household level. Recognizing the importance of promoting research on household demography on a global scale, the Population Division initiated the development of a new database in 2016 to document recent trends in the size and composition of households around the world. Efforts are now under way to compile information about households using microdata obtained from censuses and household surveys. In addition to trends in household size and composition, the database includes estimates of the living arrangements of persons by age. The database builds on the Division's earlier work on the living arrangements of older persons, extending it to include estimates of the living arrangements of children, youth and working-age adults.

VIII. Support to intergovernmental processes

A. Reports of the Secretary-General

39. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the theme for the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development in

[19] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2016-1.pdf.

2017, "Changing population age structures and sustainable development" (E/CN.9/2017/2). The report reviews the changes taking place in the age distribution of the population. These changes are affected by economic and social factors and have important implications for sustainable development. The report documents trends in the population age structure over time as well as differences across countries and regions. It highlights the critical role of population policies and improvements in health, education, employment and social protection, among other factors, in determining the social and economic consequences that may derive from these demographic changes.

40. The Population Division also prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the special theme for the forty-ninth session of the Commission in 2016, "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" (E/CN.9/2016/3). The report examined the status of the demographic evidence base and its capacity to support the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report focused on the core systems generating demographic data and highlighted the critical role of national institutions in producing the consistent and comparable sets of demographic indicators essential for the assessment of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Open access to anonymized microdata and the use of geo-referencing as part of routine data collection were emphasized as important means of expanding the usefulness of demographic data.

41. For the forty-ninth session of the Commission, the Population Division also prepared the report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2016/6), which provided an overview of demographic trends for the world, major geographic regions and selected countries, and for various classifications of countries according to their level of development. In the report, it was indicated that the world's population totalled 7.3 billion in 2015 and was projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, with most of the increase occurring in Africa and Asia. There was great diversity in recent population trends and in their expected future trajectories across countries and geographic regions, driven primarily by differences in levels and trends of fertility. While some countries would experience a decline in population size between 2015 and 2030, in others the population would increase by more than 50 per cent. A difficulty for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda was that much of the population growth between 2015 and 2030 would be concentrated in countries facing the greatest challenges in ending poverty and hunger and ensuring health, education and equality for all. The report highlighted the substantial recent progress in lowering child and maternal mortality and in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Despite this good news, efforts to reduce mortality would need to be sustained and strengthened in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

42. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the discussion on that item during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly (A/71/296). The report summarized the latest global migration patterns, highlighted the role of migration in population change and presented the status of ratification of the relevant legal instruments. The report also analysed how the issue of migration had been incorporated into the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex) and

illustrated how members of the Global Migration Group had contributed to the implementation of resolution 69/229 on international migration and development. The report also provided recommendations on the organization of the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and suggestions on how future high-level dialogues could contribute to the thematic review of the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets. On 11 October 2016, the Division organized a briefing for Member States on the report. Following the presentation of the report to the Second Committee, that body undertook informal consultations supported by the Division, leading to the adoption of resolution 71/237 on international migration and development.

B. Other parliamentary documents

43. For the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, in 2017, the Population Division prepared a note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the Division during the period 2018-2019. The note will be issued in early 2017 and the Commission will be asked to take note of it at the session.

44. For the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, in 2016, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2015/252, the Population Division prepared a note by the Secretariat on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8). The note informed the Commission's deliberations on this topic, leading to the adoption of a draft resolution that was forwarded to the Economic and Social Council, which subsequently adopted it as resolution 2016/25.

45. The Population Division also issued a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework of the Population Division for the period 2018-2019 (E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1). At its forty-ninth session, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General.

C. Expert group meetings

46. The Division convened an expert group meeting on changing population age structures and sustainable development in New York on 13 and 14 October 2016 to gather inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission, in 2017.[20] Approximately 30 experts from academic institutions and international organizations attended the meeting. They reviewed the demographic drivers of change in the population age distribution and examined the implications of these shifts for government policies regarding health, education, work, social protection and intergenerational support. The report of the meeting, prepared by the Population Division, summarizes the discussions and its main conclusions.

47. With support from Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), the national statistical office of the Republic of Korea, the Population Division convened an expert group meeting

[20] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/25/index.shtml.

on methodology and lessons learned to evaluate the completeness and quality of vital statistics data from civil registration in New York on 3 and 4 November 2016.[21] The holding of the meeting was motivated by the need, widely recognized by Member States and other stakeholders, to improve the systematic registration of vital events throughout the world — in particular births and deaths — in the context of the 2030 Agenda.[22] The meeting brought together more than 50 participants.

48. The meeting examined the status of vital statistics derived using data from civil registration, with an emphasis on developing countries. This included a review of analytical methods for evaluating the proportion of vital events that are registered in practice by civil registration systems and the quality of the recorded information. Participants also discussed lessons learned from local and international experiences in applying these methods in various settings. The proceedings of the meeting are forthcoming. Webex recordings of the presentations and discussions are available as well. The meeting and associated reference materials, including two synthesis papers being prepared by experts, will inform the Division's work on population estimation, which relies on the use of vital statistics derived from civil registration for many countries.

D. Monitoring of internationally agreed development goals

49. The Population Division published its comprehensive collection of survey-based estimates of family planning indicators, World Contraceptive Use 2016,[2] as well as model-based estimates and projections of such indicators, Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2016,[3] providing information for individual years from 1970 to 2030. These datasets informed the Secretary-General's report on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2016/75), in particular, with regard to target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning. The comprehensive dataset and model-based estimates and projections provide critical evidence regarding the degree to which the demand for family planning is being met and whether that demand is being satisfied by the use of modern methods of contraception. Globally in 2015, for example, for approximately three quarters of the women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) who were married or in a union and who expressed a demand for family planning, that demand was being satisfied by using modern contraceptive methods. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, this occurred for less than half of all women in the same category, who were more likely to rely on traditional, and generally less effective, methods of contraception.

50. The publications of the Population Division on contraceptive use and family planning are widely used by organizations that work to improve sexual and reproductive health, including global initiatives such as Family Planning 2020. The

[21] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/26/index.shtml.

[22] Target 16.9 indicates that by 2030 legal identity should be provided to all persons and makes specific mention of birth registration. Target 17.19 on capacity-building in developing countries to support national development plans includes, as one of two elements for indicator 17.19.2, the proportion of countries that have achieved 100 per cent completeness in the registration of births and 80 per cent completeness in the registration of deaths.

Division is now working to expand the collection of data inputs and the methods used for the model-based estimates and projections to obtain results that apply to all women of reproductive age, rather than being limited to women who are married or in a union. Since 2014, the further development of the Division's work on family planning indicators has been supported by extrabudgetary contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Population Division has now completed the compilation of available data on the use of family planning by unmarried women and is preparing estimates of the various indicators pertaining to all women of reproductive age for the 2017 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. During 2016, the Population Division contributed to the work of the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, which assesses the progress made towards the achievement of target 3.2 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development on ending preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age by 2030. The Inter-agency Group is led by UNICEF and WHO and includes the Population Division and the World Bank. As part of its contribution to this work, the Division provided updated information to an online database that is maintained by UNICEF.[23] Through this work, the Division contributed to the 2016 and 2017 reports on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. The Population Division also participated in a meeting of the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group, held in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016. The Group, which is responsible for monitoring progress in the reduction of maternal mortality as part of the global review of target 3.1 of the 2030 Agenda, is led by WHO and UNICEF, with the participation of the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and the Population Division. The purpose of the meeting was to review the terms of reference for the Group as well as the methodology to be used for the next round of estimates, to be published in 2017. Participants also discussed the terms of reference of the technical advisory group that supports the Inter-agency Group by reviewing its work and providing expert advice.

53. The Population Division continued its collaboration with IOM and others on developing and validating the methodology for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2 (the number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies). The Division and IOM are the lead agencies responsible for this indicator. As part of the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, which the Population Division has carried out periodically since 1963, some of the necessary information for this indicator will be obtained through a dedicated module on migration policies, gathering information on institutional capacity, migrant rights and safety, international cooperation and response to humanitarian crises. The survey instrument will be validated by relevant government agencies, international organizations and experts, and field tested in selected countries.

54. The Division participated in the system-wide consultations and reviews of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Group was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session to develop an indicator framework for monitoring the Goals and targets of the 2030

[23] See http://childmortality.org/.

Agenda at the global level and to support its implementation. Throughout the year, the Division participated in the review of indicators, including discussions on options for indicators that are not yet clearly defined. The Division also participated in the review of data flows — from the national to the regional and global levels — and in discussions on best practices for the delivery of such data.

IX. Dissemination of population information and data

55. During 2016, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website, which provides access to timely population information for use by government officials, academic researchers, the private sector and civil society. The website contains all of the publications issued by the Division in recent years and a full collection of documents and statements before the Commission on Population and Development since 1994. Web traffic statistics indicate that, in 2016, the Division's website was visited by approximately 28,000 users per day, generating some 8.9 million page views for the year.

56. To improve dissemination, all datasets and output related to the *World Population Prospects* are made available online.[5] Users can download over 600 data files in Microsoft Excel format, as well as database-friendly ASCII files. The website also contains methodological information, analytical charts and the results of probabilistic fertility and mortality projections. According to data from Google Analytics, the website had about 1.4 million page views in 2016, of which over 900,000 were unique page views. The Population Division also maintains a website focusing exclusively on international migration,[24] which had about 141,808 page views in 2016, up from 66,169 in 2015, reflecting the increased interest and activity in migration and related topics during this time period.

57. The Population Division maintains the Global Migration Database,[25] a comprehensive collection of empirical data on the number and characteristics of international migrants worldwide. By the end of 2016, the database included over 4,900 data tables pertaining to over 90 per cent of all countries and areas. The number of registered users increased by almost 10 per cent, from 6,700 in 2015 to 7,300 in 2016, illustrating the utility of the database for migration researchers.

58. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Communications and Information Management Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs produced four videos on population-related topics.[26] The first, entitled "Counting all people, because all people count", drew attention to the importance of demographic data and analysis and promoted the theme of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. The video was viewed over 1,000 times. Three additional videos were produced in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016.

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[24] www.unmigration.org.

[25] https://esa.un.org/unmigration/.

[26] Available from https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE7S8qSeNZS6GqIXT5inilbTGoDFEvovg.

59. The Division ensured that all briefings for Member States that were webcast were made available through the Division's website. Also, working through the Communications and Information Management Service, the Population Division used Twitter and Facebook to publicize the forty-ninth session of the Commission and the high-level plenary meeting in September.

60. The Population Division received many requests for data and provided such data and information in a timely manner. In 2016, the Division continued to meet with delegations of Member States to discuss various population-related topics, including the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the biennial estimates and projections of the world population, the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

X. Technical cooperation

61. The Population Division organized three workshops in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa as part of a project supported by the Development Account on strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population estimates and projections in policy-making for sustainable development. The objective of the workshops was to assist national institutions to strengthen their capacity to produce high-quality population estimates and projections. Separate workshops were conducted in English and French using training materials developed in-house by the Population Division. The workshops were attended by professionals from the national statistical offices of African countries.

62. The Population Division participated in a meeting of the WHO Reference Group on Global Health Statistics, held in Geneva, on 14 and 15 March 2016. The meeting was attended by 38 participants, including staff from WHO headquarters and regional offices and representatives from other parts of the United Nations system and academia who have experience with mortality estimation and the study of causes of death. The meeting included presentations of the work done by thematic working groups on the following issues: guidelines for producing and reporting global health estimates; ways to enhance the collection by countries of information on causes of death and to facilitate its reporting to WHO (including through use of verbal autopsy and machine coding); harmonization across institutions of estimates of total mortality and life tables for national populations; differences in mortality estimates by cause of death of WHO and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation; a review of the experience with country consultations during the era of the Millennium Development Goals; an assessment of countries' use of global health estimates; and discussions about subnational global health estimates and ongoing efforts by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation to produce such estimates. The meeting called for greater transparency and access to both empirical data and methods of analysis in order to facilitate the replication of findings and to foster better communication and understanding of results. The meeting also drew attention to the need for more accurate and systematic methods for evaluating the completeness of mortality information derived from civil registration.

63. The Population Division also participated in the first consultation of the Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MONITOR) Technical Advisory Group on 18 and 19 April 2016 in Geneva. The purpose of the consultation was to carry out a "scoping" exercise to build a picture of what such a group should seek to achieve and how to achieve it. The Technical Advisory Group will act as an advisory body to WHO on matters of measurement, metrics and monitoring of maternal and newborn health. Participants in the meeting discussed all aspects of the terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Group.

64. The Population Division is an active partner and contributor to the Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group, which is composed of international and regional organizations seeking to forge and strengthen alliances in this area of work.[27] The Population Division participated from 11 to 14 July 2016 in an eLearning workshop on civil registration and vital statistics organized by the Canadian Centre of Excellence for Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, along with the World Bank Group and the Working Group. The workshop, which was held in Ottawa, provided an opportunity to review and discuss 13 modules of a new online course to be launched in 2017. Participants included 55 international and national experts, who contributed to the drafting of the eLearning materials, which will be hosted by the Open Learning Campus of the World Bank Group.[28] The Population Division contributed to the discussion panels on the registration of births and deaths and on the analysis, use, compilation and dissemination of vital statistics.

65. The Population Division and the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of Malawi, organized a regional workshop on the production and use of survey data on ageing as part of a Development Account project on strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population estimates and projections in policymaking for sustainable development. The workshop was held in Lilongwe from 19 to 21 July 2016.

66. The workshop promoted evidence-based policymaking and programme formulation in the field of ageing, focusing on some countries of Africa and with reference to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[29] the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The workshop brought together 36 experts from international organizations, Governments, academia and civil society from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the available survey instruments and tools for research on ageing in Africa. An in-depth consultation was held to consolidate the feedback and ensure that countries assumed ownership of the resulting instruments. The pilot survey will be carried out in early 2017. Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique have expressed a desire to include some part of the survey instrument in their ongoing household surveys.

[27] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/crvs/globalcrvs.html.

[28] See https://olc.worldbank.org.

[29] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

67. The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-organized a workshop on collecting and using migration-related data for development: cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor in Rome from 30 November to 2 December 2016.[80] The workshop, which was organized also in collaboration with IFAD and other members of the Global Migration Group, brought together experts from national statistical offices in charge of producing official statistics on international migration and from ministries or agencies in charge of compiling and analysing migration data derived from administrative sources. The main objectives of the workshop were to enhance the capacity of government officials to generate data and statistics on migration and related topics and to use such information to inform national policy-making and development planning. The workshop highlighted the standards and guidelines of the United Nations for the collection and presentation of statistics on international migration. Participants also discussed the role of data on migration and related topics in the context of the follow-up and implementation of the migration-related elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[80] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/workshop/2016/index.shtml.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or events organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2016)

Expert group meetings

Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 25 and 26 February 2016[a]

Expert group meeting on changing population age structures and sustainable development, New York, 13 and 14 October 2016[b]

Expert group meeting on methodology and lessons learned to evaluate the completeness and quality of vital statistics data from civil registration, New York, 3 and 4 November 2016[c]

Training workshops

Workshop on the production of population projections, Addis Ababa, 7-11 March 2016 (in English), organized by the Population Division and the Economic Commission for Africa[d]

Workshop on the production of population estimates and demographic indicators, Dakar, 26-30 September 2016 (in French), organized by the Population Division and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning[e]

Workshop on the production of population projections, Dakar, Senegal, 28 November-2 December 2016 (in French), organized by the Population Division and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning[f]

Workshop on collecting and using migration-related data for development: cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor, Rome, 30 November-2 December 2016 (in English), organized by the Population Division in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Fund for Agricultural Development[g]

Reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2016/2)

[a] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/14/index.shtml.
[b] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/25/index.shtml.
[c] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/26/index.shtml.
[d] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/other/14/index.shtml.
[e] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/other/16/index.shtml.
[f] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/other/17/index.shtml.
[g] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/other/workshop/2016/index.shtml.

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2016/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2016/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2016/7)

Note by the Secretariat on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2016/8)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework of the Population Division for the period 2018-2019 (E/CN.9/2016/CRP.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on changing population age structures and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2017/2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the period 2018-2019 (E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/71/296)

Research studies

World Mortality Report 2015 — Highlights

Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration

Expert group meeting on changing population age structures and sustainable development

Databases

World Contraceptive Use 2016 dataset (web dataset)[h]

Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2016 (web dataset)[i]

Estimates and Projections of the Number of Women Aged 15-49 Who Are Married or in a Union: 2016 Revision (web dataset)[j]

World Population Policies Database (web dataset)[k]

Wallcharts, infocharts and data booklets

The World's Cities in 2016[l]

[h] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2016.shtml.

[i] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml.

[j] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/marriage-unions/marriage_estimates.shtml.

[k] See https://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about_database.aspx.

[l] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/urbanization/the_worlds_cities_in_2016_data_booklet.pdf.

Policies on Spatial Distribution and Urbanization[m]

Technical papers series

"Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world" (technical paper No. 2017/1)

Policy briefs

"Sub-Saharan Africa's growing population of older persons", Population Facts, No. 2016/1[n]

"Changing patterns of marriage and unions across the world", Population Facts, No. 2016/2[o]

[m] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/Data%20Booklet%20Urbanization%20Policies.pdf.

[n] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2016-1.pdf.

[o] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2016-2.pdf.